

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A method for preparing an optical information medium comprising a ~~disk-shaped~~ supporting substrate having a center hole, an ~~annular~~ information recording area provided thereon, and ~~an annular resin-based~~ a light-transmitting layer including a resin layer formed on the information recording area through which recording/reading laser beam is transmitted, wherein comprising:

~~the light-transmitting layer is formed by~~ feeding a coating fluid containing an actinic radiation-curable resin onto the supporting substrate ~~having the information recording area formed thereon and~~:

rotating the supporting substrate ~~for spreading so as to spread~~ the coating fluid over the supporting substrate ~~to thereby and~~ form [[a]] the resin layer[[,]]; and subsequently, irradiating the resin layer with actinic radiation to ~~thereby~~ cure said resin layer while reducing [[the]] a rotation speed of the supporting substrate.

Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein energy density of said actinic radiation on the surface of said resin layer is ~~relatively low around lower in an outer peripheral region of said resin layer than in an inner region of said resin layer.~~

Claim 3 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein ~~irradiation of actinic radiation irradiating~~ is carried out such that an outer boundary of [[the]] an area of the resin layer irradiated with said actinic radiation substantially matches with [[the]] an outer peripheral edge of said supporting substrate.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to claim 1, wherein, ~~in the formation of the resin layer, said irradiation of actinic radiation irradiating~~ is carried out after

scraping off at least some of the coating fluid that protrudes out of [[the]] an outer peripheral edge of said supporting substrate.

Claim 5 (currently amended): An optical information medium comprising:
a ~~disk-shaped~~ supporting substrate having a center hole[[,]];
an annular information recording area ~~thereon~~, and provided on the supporting
substrate; and

~~an annular resin-based a~~ light-transmitting layer formed on the information recording area through which recording/reading laser beam is transmitted, ~~wherein a recess is formed on the surface of the~~ light-transmitting layer including a recess at a position [[from]] outside ~~the outer peripheral edge of the~~ information recording area ~~to the outer peripheral edge of the~~ light-transmitting layer, and a minute bump [[is]] formed on the supporting substrate outside of the recess.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The optical information medium according to claim 5,
wherein the relation:

$$D_1 \geq D_2$$

is satisfied when [[the]] a distance in a thickness direction from [[the]] a position on a surface of the light-transmitting layer at the position just inside of the recess to [[the]] a bottom of the recess is designated as D_1 , and [[the]] a distance in a thickness direction from the bottom of the recess to [[the]] a top of said minute bump is designated as D_2 .

Claim 7 (currently amended): An optical information medium comprising:
a ~~disk-shaped~~ supporting substrate having a center hole[[,]];
an annular information recording area ~~thereon~~, and provided on the supporting
substrate;

~~an annular resin-based a~~ light-transmitting layer formed on the information recording area through which recording/reading laser beam is transmitted, ~~wherein the light-~~

transmitting layer is a layer containing including an actinic radiation-curable resin formed by spin coating, and having a thickness of the light transmitting layer which does not increase from [[the]] an inner peripheral region to [[the]] an outer peripheral region at least in a region of the light transmitting layer, at least on the information recording area, the light-transmitting layer having a thinned portion outside of said region and a thickened portion outside of the thinned portion.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The optical information medium according to claim 7, wherein the thickness of the light-transmitting layer is less at a position in the outer peripheral region compared to the thickness at least at a position in the inner peripheral region of the light-transmitting layer, at least on the information recording area.

Claim 9 (new): A method according to Claim 1, wherein the substrate has a disk shape, and the information recording area and the light-transmitting layer are annular.

Claim 10 (new): An optical information medium according to Claim 5, wherein the substrate has a disk shape, the information recording area is annular, and the light-transmitting layer is annular and includes a resin.

Claim 11 (new): An optical information medium according to Claim 7, wherein the substrate has a disk shape, and the information recording area and the light-transmitting layer are annular.

Claim 12 (new): An optical information medium according to Claim 5, wherein the light transmitting layer has a thickness which does not increase from an inner peripheral region to an outer peripheral region at least in a region of the light transmitting layer on the information recording area.